

Message Text

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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS; PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. CHILE: NEW CABINET MAY BE SHORT-LIVED

CHILE'S NEW CABINET DOES NOT GIVE GREAT PROMISE OF BEING ABLE TO SOLVE INTRACTABLE INTERNAL PROBLEMS. THE MINISTRIES TO BE OCCUPIED BY THE MILITARY ARE NOT THE CABINET'S MOST POWERFUL POSTS. THE CABINET RESTRUCTURING DOES NOT MEET REPEATED MILITARY DEMANDS FOR A DOMINANT CABINET PRESENCE. THE MILITARY MINISTERS ARE BOUND TO ENCOUNTER GREAT FRUSTRATIONS, AND THEY MAY NOT LAST AS LONG AS THEIR PREDECESSORS. (CONFIDENTIAL) SANTIAGO 3549, 8/9.

2. CAMBODIAN LEADER TRY'S TO BOW OUT AGAIN

AMBASSADOR SWANK IN PHNOM PENH HAS LEARNED THAT PRIME

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MINISTER IN TAM HAS AGAIN SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION

TO MARSHALL LON NOL. INABILITY TO GET ALONG WITH
THE MILITARY, AND A BELIEF THAT HIS OWN CAREER WILL
BE WRECKED BY CONTINUED ASSOCIATION WITH THE LON NOL

GOVERNMENT ARE FACTORS BEHIND IN TAM'S MOVE. THE
AMBASSADOR WILL TRY TO ENCOURAGE IN TAM TO STAY ON,
BUT FEELS THAT LON NOL AND OTHER HIGH KHMER OFFICIALS
ARE LOSING PATIENCE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AS A
RESULT OF HIS REPEATED EFFORTS TO BOW OUT. (SECRET)
PHNOM PENH 8216, 8/9 (EXDIS).

3. ARE THE THAIS DEALING WITH SIHANOUK?

ON THE BASIS OF A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE IN BANGKOK AND
COMMENTS BY THE VISITING THAI AMBASSADOR TO
WASHINGTON, EMBASSY BANGKOK BELIEVES THAT THE THAI
AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO MAY HAVE MET WITH THE AMBASSADOR
OF SIHANOUK'S KHMER GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE. THE EMBASSY
NOTES THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT STRONGLY SUPPORTS
LON NOL IN PHNOM PENH AND THAT THEY FEAR AN INSURGENT/
SIHANOUK DOMINATED CAMBODIA; NEVERTHELESS, THEY MAY BE
NOW TRYING TO SIGNAL TO SIHANOUK THAT THEY HAVE NO
HOSTILE INTENTIONS AGAINST HIM. (CONFIDENTIAL)
BANGKOK 12386, 8/9.

4. GERMAN REACTION TO OFFSET/BURDENSARING INITIATIVE

THE GERMAN FOREIGN OFFICE HAS INFORMED EMBASSY BONN
OF ITS PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD'S
NATO PRESENTATION. GERMANY INTENDS TO CONCLUDE A
FULLY SATISFACTORY OFFSET AGREEMENT, BUT THE OUTLOOK
FOR BURDENSARING IS DIM. FOREIGN OFFICIALS BELIEVE
THE US VIEWS ARE UNDERSTOOD BY NATO MEMBERS BUT DOUBT
THAT THE RESULT OF NATO DELIBERATIONS WILL BE SUFFICIENT
TO SATISFY US CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM. (CONFIDENTIAL)
BONN 11413, 8/9 (LIMDIS). ROGERS

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